

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Independent claims 21, 28 and 35 have been amended to further clarify the features of the claims. Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification and drawings as filed, and particularly at page 7, line 25, through page 8, line 8. Applicants assert that the claims are clearly allowable over the cited references. Applicants further assert that further prior art searching is not required in order to address the changes associated with this Amendment.

I. Rejection of the Claims

Claims 21-24, 26-31, 33-38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,810,405 issued to LaRue et al. (hereinafter “LaRue”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,124,291 issued to Fresko (hereinafter “Fresco”). Claims 25, 32 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaRue in view of Fresko and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0053631 published to Un (hereinafter “Un”).

Applicants make no representation that the cited references are prior art. This response and any remarks or comments included herein are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that any cited references are prior art. Applicants reserve the right to dispose of any cited reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103, including, but not limited to, antedating any one or more of the cited references.

II. Examiner Interview

Applicant’s attorney, Kevin E. West, wishes to thank Examiner Marshall M. McLeod for a telephonic interview on July 15, 2009.

In the interest of expediting allowance of the application, and without conceding the propriety of the rejection, applicants’ attorney proposed to amend each of the independent claims as suggested by Examiner McLeod to further clarify features of applicants’ invention. Applicants’ attorney understood Examiner McLeod to tentatively agree that the proposed amendment overcame the outstanding rejections based on LaRue, Fresko, and Un, and place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended herein as discussed during the interview. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that would prevent the allowance of the application,

III. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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